

HB 1177 -- STRUCTURED FAMILY CAREGIVING

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill adds structured family caregiving to the MO HealthNet Program to ensure the availability of comprehensive and cost-effective choices for a MO HealthNet recipient to live at home in the community of his or her choice and to receive support from a caregiver of his or her choice. Structured family caregiving must be added as a covered home- and community-based waiver service in the Missouri aged and disabled adult waiver and the independent living waiver, subject to federal approval of any amendments to the home- and community-based waiver and the independent living waiver which are necessary to implement these provisions.

The bill specifies that the added structured family caregiving service must include:

- (1) A choice for the participant of qualified and credentialed caregivers, including family caregivers;
- (2) A choice for the participant of community settings in which he or she receives structured family caregiving. A caregiver may provide structured family caregiving services in the caregiver's home or the participant's home;
- (3) A requirement that all organizations serving as structured family caregiving agencies are considered home- and community-based care providers and are accountable for quality, including qualification and requalification of caregivers and homes, professional staff support for eligible seniors, and deployment of electronic community care records, whenever possible; and
- (4) A daily payment rate for services that is adequate to pay stipends to caregivers and pay provider agencies for the cost of providing professional staff support as required under the provisions of the bill.

Within 30 days of the effective date of these provisions, the MO HealthNet Division must, if necessary to implement the provisions of the bill, apply to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for an amendment to the aged and disabled adult waiver and the independent living waiver for the purpose of including structured family caregiving as a covered service for eligible home- and community-based waiver recipients. The division must request an effective date of not later than July 1, 2016, and

must take all administrative actions necessary to ensure time and equitable availability of structured family caregiving services for any home- and community-based care recipient.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the goal of the state plan on aging to enable more seniors and persons with disabilities to live outside of nursing homes via expansion of home- and community-based services. As caregivers the family members have no medical training or education, thus companies provide caregiver support via a care team to ensure the best possible care is provided to the consumer. Caregivers submit a daily note to the case management system to show progress of the consumer and to ensure medications are timely received.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr; and Richard L. Henley, Senior Link/Caregiver Homes.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.